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Letter dated 8 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Joint Communiqué of the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (see annex), which was convened in Beijing on 15 May 2017.

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13.

(*Signed*) **Liu** Jieyi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations

17-09605 (E) 270617

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Annex to the letter dated 8 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and English]

Joint Communiqué of the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

1. We, President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, President Mauricio Macri of the Argentine Republic, President Alyaksandr Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus, President Michelle Bachelet Jeria of the Republic of Chile, President Milos Zeman of the Czech Republic, President Joko Widodo of the Republic of Indonesia, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya, President Almazbek Atambaev of the Kyrgyz Republic, President Bounnhang Vorachith of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte of the Republic of the Philippines, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, President Doris Leuthard of the Swiss Confederation, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of the Republic of Turkey, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan, President Tran Dai Quang of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama of the Republic of Fiji, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of the Hellenic Republic, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán of Hungary, President of the Council of Ministers Paolo Gentiloni of the Italian Republic, Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia, Prime Minister Erdenebat Jargaltulga of Mongolia, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Prime Minister Beata Szydło of the Republic of Poland, Prime Minister and President-elect Aleksandar Vučić of the Republic of Serbia, President of the Government Mariano Rajoy Brey of the Kingdom of Spain, and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, attended the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on 15 May 2017 in Beijing. We also welcome the participation of Secretary-General António Guterres of the United Nations, President Jim Yong Kim of the World Bank Group, and Managing Director Christine Lagarde of the International Monetary Fund. The Leaders Roundtable was chaired by President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China.

General context

2. We are mindful that the world economy is undergoing profound changes, presenting both opportunities and challenges. This is an era of opportunity, where countries continue to aspire for peace, development and cooperation. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the set of Sustainable Development Goals at its core, provides a new blueprint for international cooperation.

3. In this context, we welcome bilateral, triangular, regional and multilateral cooperation where countries place emphasis on eradicating poverty, creating jobs, addressing the consequences of international financial crises, promoting sustainable development, and advancing market-based industrial transformation and economic diversification. We note with appreciation that various development strategies and connectivity cooperation initiatives have been put forward, providing broad space for strengthening international cooperation.

4. We further recognize the challenges that the world economy faces. While it is currently experiencing modest recovery, downside risks remain. The growth of global trade and investment remains tempered, and the rules-based multilateral trading regime has yet to be strengthened. All countries, especially developing ones, still face common challenges of eradicating poverty, promoting inclusive and sustained economic growth, and achieving sustainable development.

5. Noting that the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Twenty-First Century Maritime Silk Road (Belt and Road Initiative) can create opportunities amid challenges and changes, we welcome and support the Belt and Road Initiative to enhance connectivity between Asia and Europe, which is also open to other regions such as Africa and South America. By providing important opportunities for countries to deepen cooperation, it has achieved positive outcomes and has future potential to deliver more benefits as an important international initiative.

6. We also emphasize the opportunities which can be created by communication and coordination among other global, regional and national frameworks and initiatives for promoting cooperation in connectivity and sustainable development, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the Ancient Civilizations Forum, the APEC Connectivity Blueprint, the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the Asia-Europe Meeting and its pathfinder group on connectivity, the Caravanserai Customs Initiative, cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European countries, the China-Europe Land-Sea Express Route, the East-West Middle Corridor Initiative, the EU-China Connectivity Platform, the EU Eastern Partnership, the Eurasian partnership based on the principles of equality, openness and transparency, the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, the main direction for the economic development of the Eurasian Economic Union until 2030, the Paris Agreement on climate change, Trans-European Transport Network, the Western Balkans 6 Connectivity Agenda and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

7. We reaffirm our shared commitment to building an open economy, ensuring free and inclusive trade, and opposing all forms of protectionism, including in the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. We endeavour to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system with WTO at its core.

Cooperation objectives

8. We stand for enhancing international cooperation, including the Belt and Road Initiative and various development strategies, by building closer collaborative partnerships, which include advancing North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation.

9. We reiterate the importance of expanding economic growth, trade and investment based on a level-playing field, on market rules and on universally recognized international norms. We welcome the promotion of industrial cooperation, scientific and technological innovation, and regional economic cooperation and integration so as to increase, inter alia, the integration and participation of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in global value chains. Attention should be paid to tax and fiscal policies, prioritizing growth and productive investment.

10. We stand for strengthening physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity among all countries. The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries

deserve special attention to remove bottlenecks to development and achieve effective connectivity.

11. We endeavour to expand people-to-people exchanges, to promote peace, justice, social cohesion, inclusiveness, democracy, good governance, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and women empowerment, to work together to fight against corruption and bribery in all their forms, to be more responsive to all the needs of those in vulnerable situations such as children, persons with disabilities and older persons, and to help to improve global economic governance and ensure equal access by all to development opportunities and benefits.

12. We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through taking urgent action on climate change and encouraging all parties which have ratified it to fully implement the Paris Agreement, managing natural resources in an equitable and sustainable manner, conserving and sustainably using oceans, seas and freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands, protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife, and combating desertification and land degradation so as to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions in a balanced and integrated manner.

13. We encourage the involvement of Governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and citizens in fostering and promoting friendship, mutual understanding and trust.

Cooperation principles

14. We uphold the spirit of peace, cooperation, openness, transparency, inclusiveness, equality, mutual learning, mutual benefit and mutual respect by strengthening cooperation on the basis of extensive consultation and the rule of law, joint efforts, shared benefits and equal opportunities for all. In this context, we highlight the following principles guiding our cooperation, in accordance with our respective national laws and policies:

(a) Consultation on an equal footing: Honouring the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries, formulating cooperation plans and advancing cooperation projects through consultation;

(b) Mutual benefit: Seeking the convergence of interests and the broadest common ground for cooperation, taking into account the perspectives of different stakeholders;

(c) Harmony and inclusiveness: Acknowledging the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognizing that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to sustainable development;

(d) Market-based operation: Recognizing the role of the market and that of businesses as key players, while ensuring that Government performs its proper role, and highlighting the importance of open, transparent, and non-discriminatory procurement procedures;

(e) Balance and sustainability: Emphasizing the importance of economic, social, fiscal, financial and environmental sustainability of projects, and of promoting high environmental standards, while striking a good balance among economic growth, social progress and environmental protection.

Cooperation measures

15. We affirm the need to prioritize policy consultation, trade promotion, infrastructure connectivity, financial cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, and we highlight concrete actions, in accordance with our national laws and regulations and international obligations where applicable, such as:

(a) Pursuing dialogue and consultation in order to build synergies in development strategies among participating countries, noting the efforts to strengthen cooperation in coordinating development of the Belt and Road Initiative with other plans and initiatives, as mentioned in paragraph 6, and to promote partnerships among Europe, Asia, South America, Africa and other regions;

(b) Conducting in-depth consultation on macroeconomic issues by optimizing the existing multilateral and bilateral cooperation and dialogue mechanisms, so as to provide robust policy support for practical cooperation and the implementation of major projects;

(c) Strengthening cooperation on innovation, by supporting innovation action plans for e-commerce, the digital economy, smart cities and science and technology parks, and by encouraging greater exchanges on innovation and business start-up models in the Internet age while respecting intellectual property rights;

(d) Promoting practical cooperation on roads, railways, ports, maritime and inland water transport, aviation, energy pipelines, electricity, fibre optics, trans-oceanic cables, telecommunications and information and communications technology, and welcoming the development of interconnected multimodal corridors, such as the New Eurasian Land Bridge, the Northern Sea Route and the Middle Corridor, and of major international transportation routes in order to put in place an international infrastructure network over time;

(e) Maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development by: taking into account international standards where applicable and by aiming at harmonizing rules and technological standards when necessary; fostering a favourable environment and predictability for infrastructure investment by private capital; promoting public-private partnerships in areas that create more jobs and generate greater efficiency; and welcoming international financial institutions to increase support and investment for infrastructure development;

(f) Deepening economic and trade cooperation; upholding the authority and effectiveness of the multilateral trading system and working together to achieve positive outcomes at the eleventh WTO ministerial conference; promoting trade and investment liberalization and facilitation; and enabling the general public to benefit from trade;

(g) Expanding trade by nurturing new areas of trade growth and promoting trade balance, e-commerce and the digital economy, and welcoming the development of free trade areas and the signing of free trade agreements by interested countries;

(h) Advancing global value chain development and supply chain connectivity, while ensuring safer work places and strengthening social protection systems; increasing two-way investment and enhancing cooperation in emerging industries, trade and industrial parks and cross-border economic zones;

(i) Enhancing cooperation in ensuring the protection of the environment, biodiversity and natural resources, in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, in promoting resilience and disaster-risk reduction and management, and in advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency;

(j) Regarding the process of customs clearance, strengthening cooperation on information exchange and on developing mutual recognition of controls, mutual assistance in enforcement, and mutual sharing of information; enhancing customs cooperation with a view to facilitating trade, including by harmonizing procedures and reducing costs, and in this regard, strengthening cooperation in protecting intellectual property rights;

(k) Jointly working on a long-term, stable and sustainable financing system; enhancing financial infrastructure connectivity, exploring new models and platforms for investment and financing and improving financial services; assessing opportunities to better serve local financial markets; and encouraging development-oriented financial institutions to play an active role and strengthening cooperation with multilateral development institutions;

(l) Contributing to a stable and equitable international financial system; promoting openness and connectivity among financial markets, including through mutual cooperation on payment systems and the promotion of financial inclusion; encouraging financial institutions to establish a commercial presence in relevant countries and regions; promoting bilateral local currency settlement and cooperation agreements, and facilitating the development of local currency bond and stock markets; and encouraging dialogues to enhance financial cooperation and fend off financial risks;

(m) Promoting people-to-people exchanges and bonds by deepening practical cooperation in education, science, technology, sports, health, think tanks, media and capacity-building, including through internships;

(n) Encouraging dialogues among civilizations and cultural exchanges, promoting tourism and protecting the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Our vision for the future

16. Our joint endeavour on the Belt and Road Initiative seeks complementarities with other connectivity initiatives in order to provide new opportunities and impetus for international cooperation and to help work for a globalization that is open, inclusive and beneficial to all.

17. We reiterate that promoting peace and mutually beneficial cooperation and honouring the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law are our shared responsibilities; achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and development and improving people's quality of life are our common goals; and creating a prosperous and peaceful community with a shared future for mankind is our common aspiration.

18. We congratulate China on successfully hosting the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.